

Eat the State!

A FORUM FOR ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN POLITICAL OPINION, RESEARCH, AND HUMOR

This Week's Menu

Stop (Hating) Bush

Wrecking Social Security

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Ward Churchill & the Right's Mad Dogs

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Plus Commix, History, Calendar, and your own Personal Revolution Account

Quotes of the Week

It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods or no god.

It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg.

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

A man compounded of law and gospel is able to cheat a whole country with his religion and then destroy them under the color of law.

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

STOP (HATING) BUSH

A human being is part of a whole, called by us the Universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest—a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. —Albert Einstein

At the risk of saying something freakish and absurd, it is time for American leftists, progressives and radicals to stop hating and fearing George Bush.

Maybe there are good reasons to find Bush hateful or terrifying. But, if Bush is as dangerous as we all think he is, then hate and fear are luxuries that we cannot afford. Further, I submit that hate and fear are hindrances, and in many cases excuses, not to do anything about the real problems that we face. Taken to an extreme, "Bush" becomes the reason for everything that is wrong with the world and thereby allows us to wash our hands of it all, and just keep going about our lives without making any changes whatsoever (in 2004, "Anybody but Bush" was just such an excuse).

The truth is, we ALL need to change if the world is ever going to get better. And hate and fear are devices that keep us from changing.

Before I get too far into the lofty philosophical, let me provide a small analogy.

A bull might hate and fear the matador's cape—with good reason—the cape is the obvious symbol of the ongoing painful harassment of the bull. The bull fixates on the cape, and would rip and stomp the cape to pieces if it could. But the cape isn't really the problem—and if the bull could stop focusing on the cape for just a moment and follow the arm up to the matador, things might turn out a little differently in the bull ring.

The truth is, if John Kerry had defeated Bush and was now President, almost all of our problems would be exactly the same as they are now.

And those problems are really what we should be focused on. Bush, while not irrelevant, is little more than a figurehead. He's got power, but not as much as the TV would have us believe. But one sure way to give him power is to let him control your thoughts and feelings—and that's exactly what hate and fear does. Hate and fear might be useful tools for TV networks and the right-wing (including the "Christian" right), but they are non-starters for "progressives" and for anyone working for "peace" and "justice."

Here's the deal: We have at least four more years of working to implement our political goals despite the near complete opposition of the government and every other American institution. We've got work to do. If you're in the middle of a hurricane, there's not much point in wasting energy hating the weather. Better to save your energy and



get on with getting to safety.

Some thoughts:

Bush is really not very smart, certainly not smart enough to be a good President. By the same calculation, the folks who voted for Bush, and thinking they were helping to keep America strong in the process, either aren't very smart or just aren't paying attention (or perhaps harbor a secret death wish—an intriguing and seldom explored possibility).

But wait, you say, somebody up there must be smart or how else could they keep winning? Good question—back to the bull analogy. The bull is much, much, smarter than the matador's cape. The bull is maybe not as smart as the matador, but, if just for a moment the bull could get past its obsession with the cape and see what was really going on, all of a sudden the matador's superior brainpower wouldn't count for very much.

This is pretty much what your mom meant when she told you that engaging in name calling with your childhood nemesis "just brings you down to his level." While the bull is focused on the cape, it's at the cape's level, and while we are fixated on Bush, we are, for all practical purposes, functioning at his intellectual and wisdom

level—and so it's not surprising that we are in trouble.

The American Left prides itself on being motivated by something other than the fear and hate that drives the Right wing. There's even some ridiculous crap going around these days that says the Right Wing likes the "strict father" while the Left is into the "nurturing parent" model. If this were actually true (at least the way most progressives pretend it is), the Left wouldn't be so focused on the Evil Strict Tyrant Father Bush—which is simply another version of the authority worship that is destroying America.

Yes, things are bleak. But if we are serious about what we claim to be doing, we ought to be more interested in making actual progress than simply being in angry or righteous "opposition" to the matador's cape.

So here's my proposal: Next time you see Bush on TV or read about him in the newspaper or argue about him with your relatives, check in with yourself and really try to listen to what is going on inside of you, and then really try to see what the real Bush, the one behind the image, is about, what he is afraid of and what he really wants to accomplish. Then take a deep breath and try to let go of any of your own residual hate and fear. And do this every

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In the meantime, make a list of what changes you would like to see in the world.

You can still despise his policies, criti-

the process. —*Troy Skeels*

Investing in the stock market is a mug's game. Unlike, say, a casino, where you are generally only competing against the house, with Wall Street amateur investors find themselves in a near-zero-sum game pitted against professionals who study the market every day of their lives. You can get lucky and win, or you can pay (often handsomely) for someone to manage your portfolio for you. But the risk of your returns, including expenses, not matching inflation is considerable.

need the cushion of social security to retire

This is without even considering the overall economic impact of the switch to a partial privatization plan—now estimated, in one of those numbers too large to mean anything but sure to grow further, at about two trillion dollars. If you're counting, that's \$2,000,000,000,000.00 that the federal treasury currently doesn't have, a degree of fiscal recklessness that can only be considered stunning. And for what? This scheme exists for only one reason: to enable Wall Street to get its greedy hands on an enormous pool of government money that for 70 years it has been unable to touch.

exists for which there is no other tax.

There is no crisis—weapons of mass destruction, anyone?—and to the extent the Social Security system needs tweaking, there are plenty of other less severe, more prudent solutions. The current cap on earnings above which Social Security is not taxed could be raised from, say, \$90,000 a year to \$140,000. Congress could be forced to return the enormous amount of money it has "borrowed" from the Social Security trust fund over the years. The plan could stop paying out benefits to the wealthy. The government could invest the trust fund money differently. The current social security tax of 6.2% on workers (with a matching employer contribution) could be raised. Heck, the system could be reformed in any way represented by baby boomers, pay for it by bringing more people into the workforce, namely, the millions of undocumented aliens now working in a shadow economy.

Extreme? Not nearly as extreme as what Bush is proposing. And we already know from other countries' experiences that this won't work. In the closest models, Argentina and Bolivia, the high cost of adopting the program combined with a crushing existing foreign debt led to the collapse of their economies and changes in government. In Chile, the model program Bush often cites, workers who opted for private contracts earned only one-third to one-half as much as fellow workers who stayed in the traditional government plan. In Britain, the partial privatization scheme led to a rash of unscrupulous brokers taking advantage of and scamming poorly informed investors. In all these cases, large numbers of people have been left without enough to retire on.

In all these cases, the bottom line is that people who once had a safety net no longer have it. This is what the Republicans want to do. Take away an annuity program that they say is an entitlement, and to redirect the money to a new program that will help a small class that owns a lot. Democrats have to stop playing defense on this. It's not enough to whine that this will increase the federal deficit, or reserve judgment because they haven't seen the details (i.e., the bad news, like benefit cuts) the Republicans continue to hide. Social Security goes to the core of what Americans believe in. It's the only program that believe in making sure our country's wealth extends to ensuring a minimum standard of living for all, including the elderly and disabled, or would we rather hang them—even ourselves—out to dry in the name of another quick buck for the rich. It's not just the program that's at stake. The choices being considered, it's the time to make some noise. —*Geoff Parris*

YOU'RE ABOUT TO ENTER A WORLD
WHERE REALITY AND FANTASY
COLLIDE...WHERE LOGIC HOLDS
NO SHUT AND NUMBERS HAVE NO
MEANING...YOU'RE ENTERING...

The
REPUBLICAN
ZONE

$E=mc^2$

WORLD OF WAR

PRESENTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: STRANGE BEINGS WHO SAY THEY ONLY WANT TO HELP...

WE ARE THE CONSERVATROIDS! WE HAVE COME TO WARN YOU THAT YOUR PRIMITIVE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM WILL COLLAPSE IN FORTY OF YOUR EARTH YEARS--


--UNLESS YOU FOLLOW OUR ADVICE!

SERVING ELDERLY HUMANS

average citizens try to make sense of it all!

IF NOT FOR THE SUPERIOR INTELLECT OF THE CONSERVATROIDS, WE MIGHT NOT EVEN HAVE KNOWN THAT SOCIAL SECURITY IS FACING SUCH A CRISIS!

WE'RE LUCKY THESE ADVANCED BEINGS ARE WILLING TO SHARE THE WISDOM OF THEIR ADVANCED THINK TANKS!



The image shows two men in suits. The man on the left is speaking into a microphone. The man on the right is looking towards the left. They appear to be in a formal setting, possibly a press conference or a news broadcast.

THE NEW YORK TIMES
CONSERVATROIDS
SHAKE UP NEW ERA

SOON, THE HEAD CONSERVATROID
ADDRESSES A JOINT SESSION OF
CONGRESS!

—AND SO, UNDER OUR PLAN,
EARTHLINGS WILL EXERT GREATER
CONTROL OVER THEIR ACCUMULATED
UNITS OF EXCHANGE!

THANK YOU AND MAY THE DEITY
YOU SO PRIMITIVELY WORSHIP BE
PERCEIVED AS TREATING YOUR
NATION-STATE WITH FAVORITISM!

HE ACCIDENTALLY
LEAVES HIS BOOK
BEHIND!

BEHOLD!
THE PONTIFF'S
SECRET AGENT!

ECONOMISTS STRUGGLE TO DECIPHER THE CONSERVATROID PROPOSAL! THESE NUMBERS JUST DON'T ADD UP! IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THEY WANT TO SPEND 4.5 TRILLION DOLLARS MORE ON A SYSTEM WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY PROVIDE SMALLER BENEFITS!

THAT MAKES NO SENSE WHATSOEVER! WE MUST BE MISSING SOMETHING!

FINALLY! THE SMOCKING TWIST
ENDING!
I FINISHED THE TRANSLATION! THIS
ISN'T A PLAN TO REFORM SOCIAL
SECURITY AT ALL! IT'S--IT'S--

--IT'S A
COOK-
BOOK!!

WOW! I TOTALLY
DID NOT SEE THAT
COMING!

SERVING
ELDERLY
HUMANS
FOR
DINNER

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Seattle and KBTC 91.7 FM in
Tacoma and Olympia.

Reclaim OUR HISTORY

Feb. 16, 1870: Birth of Leonora O'Reilly, union leader and co-founder of NAACP.

Feb. 17, 1933: Hermann Goering endorses Nazi terrorism after two weeks of violence between labor unions and leaders. Coverage of Nazi concentration camps appeared in magazines such as *AIZ* in 1933. This publicly available information did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of Hitler's financial supporters (such as Henry Ford) or press agents (or supporters like Charles Lindbergh) in Europe and the US. Meanwhile, US journalists like George Seldes, who documented the ties between American capitalists and the Nazis, were suppressed.

Feb. 18, 1884: Moscow police seize all copies of anarcho-pacifist Leo Tolstoy's "What I Believe In" at the printers.

Feb. 19, 1912: In the Bread and Roses textile strike in Lawrence, MA, 200 police draw their clubs and go after 500 women pickets, knocking them to the ground and beating them. As the police clubbings had become more frequent and violent, strike leader Big Bill Haywood had urged the women not to picket. Instead of agreeing, an Italian woman suggested (quote): "Tomorrow morning, man no go on picket line. All man, boy stay home, sleep. Only woman, girl on picket line tomorrow morning. Soldier and policeman no beat woman, girl. You see, I got big belly, she too got big belly. Policeman no beat us." The next morning, however, the women are beaten so badly that the Italian woman who spoke, and Bertha Crouse, another pregnant striker, lose their babies and almost die.

Feb. 20, 1984: Faroes Islands' Parliament declares country a nuclear-free zone.

Feb. 23, 1972: More than 3,000 from US and Canada protest at Blaine (Wash.) border crossing against oil tanker traffic between Alaska and Puffer Sound.

Feb. 23, 1966: Barry Bonhuss dumps 50 pounds of his own shit on Dr. files. 1969: UK physicist Stephen Hawking calls Star Wars a "deliberate fraud."

Feb. 23, 1982: Principality of Wales becomes a nuclear-free zone.

Feb. 24, 1848: Revolution of 1848 begins in France, overthrowing French monarchy and inspiring revolts across Europe.

Feb. 25, 1778: Birth of Jose de San Martin, liberator of Argentina, Chile, Peru.

Feb. 26, 1966: Four thousand picket outside New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel as Pres. Lyndon Johnson receives the National Freedom Award. As Johnson begins his speech in defense of his Vietnam policies, James Peck of the War Resisters League jumps to his feet and shouts, "Mr. President, peace in Vietnam!" On the streets, meanwhile, activist A.J. Muste presents the crowd's own "Freedom Award" to Julian Bond, who has been denied his seat in the Georgia legislature for refusing to disavow his war opposition and his support of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

Feb. 27, 1901: Birth of Linus Pauling, Portland, OR. Receives two Nobel prizes—one for physics and one for his early (1950s) anti-nuclear activism.

Feb. 28, 1989: Nevada-Semipalatinsk Movement to Stop All Nuclear Testing founded in USSR, inspired by the large Nevada Test Site anti-nuclear demonstrations and encampments outside Las Vegas in mid to late 1980s.

Mar. 1, 1955: Spanish Labor transport boycott, prelude to the first strike wave under Franco.

Nobles Need Not Pay Taxes

A new aristocracy is taking over not just the United States of America but also the world. Proof of how far along it has come was in an article by Glenn R. Simpson in the January 28 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*.

"European countries have been steadily slashing corporate tax rates," wrote Simpson, adding, "...between 2000 and 2003, one nation after another has moved toward lower corporate rates with fewer loopholes."

On January 31, the *Journal* followed up with another story ("Tax Showdown Promised by EU Chief") pointing out that the new president of the European Commission launched a blunt attack on French and German efforts to end tax competition among European Union countries."

Ironically, EU leader Jose Manuel Barroso is also quoted in the *Journal* as saying: "Corporatist vested interests are the most important problem, be they from the left or the right."

This is more than just a tax cut story. It's about a fundamental shift in power and wealth from average people and the governments they had formed to represent them, to the capture of those governments and economic enslavement of their people by corporate aristocracies.

In it, Europe is simply following the lead set out by the United States, starting with the Reagan/Bush administration, when, in 1983, corporate taxes revenues were slashed to a low not seen since 1929.

This isn't the first time this has happened. Marc Bloch is one of the great 20th Century scholars of the feudal history of Europe. In his book "Feudal Society" he points out that feudalism is a fracturing of one authoritarian hierarchical structure into another: the state disintegrates, as local power brokers take over.

In almost every case, both with European feudalism and feudalism in China, South America, and Japan, "feudalism coincided with a profound weakening of the State, particularly in its protective capacity."

Whether the power and wealth agent that takes the place of government is a local baron, lord, king, or corporation, if it has greater power in the lives of individuals than does a representative government, the culture has dissolved into feudalism.

Bluntly, Bloch states: "The feudal system meant the rigorous economic sub-

ARE YOU LOUD? OPINIONATED? REPUBLICAN? EARN BIG BUCKS AS A GOVERNMENT-FUNDED JOURNALIST



example, the top corporate tax rate in the US was 48% during the Carter administration, down from a peak of 53% during the Eisenhower and Kennedy years.

Today it stands at 35%, but in May of 2001 Bush administration Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill suggested there should be no corporate income tax whatsoever. This was the opening salvo in a very real war to have working people bear all the costs of the commons and governance, while the wealthy corporate elite derive most of its benefits. And, as George H.W. Bush pointed out when he was president, this isn't just an American

phenomenon. It's a New World Order.

"The corporate tax-cutters of recent years stretch from Portugal, where the rate has dropped 10 points to about 17%, notes The Wall Street Journal's 28 January article, 'to Austria, down nine points to about 25%.'

A cornerstone of the conservative movement to consolidate power in the hands of a wealthy corporate elite, the campaign to end corporate income taxes altogether—and leave the rest of us to pick up the entire tab for corporate use of our institutions and corporation despoliation of our commons—first picked up steam when Reagan came to power in 1980.

As Cato Institute adjunct scholar Richard W. Rahn noted in Rev. Moon's Washington Times, "The idea and practice of the corporate income tax has been dying slowly for the last two decades."

The December 1, 2004 Washington Times article, titled "End Corporate Income Tax," reflects a powerful and growing movement not just in the United States but across the world. So-called "free trade" agreements and supranational institutions like the WTO have given multinational corporations control of the economic lives of nations that were previously democracies. Holland, Ireland, Germany, Portugal, Belgium—the list goes on and on.

In a feudal state, as Bloch reminds us, the nobles need not pay taxes.

And as Mussolini told us, the newest form of feudalism has been reinvented and renamed. He called it "fascism"—a word that was defined by The American Heritage Dictionary (Houghton Mifflin Company,

1983) as "fascism (fash'iz'm) n. A system of government that exercises a dictatorship of the extreme right, typically through the merging of state and business leadership, together with belligerent nationalism."

We are quickly shifting toward a corporate-run state in countries all over the world. It appears "free" and even allows elections, albeit they are only among candidates funded and approved by corporate powers, held on voting machines owned by those corporate powers, and marketed in media owned by those corporate powers.

But this bears little resemblance to the democratic republic envisioned by our Nation's Founders.

If our elected representatives—and those of other "free" nations—don't quickly wake up and reverse course, we will soon again be in a feudal world. And it's up to us—We the People—to help them awaken. —Thom Hartmann, author and syndicated talk-show host, www.thomhartmann.com

CULTURAL JET LAG

GEORGE W. BUSH *IS* THE...

KISS OF DEATH

HERE'S MY 'NEW DEAL'
BWA HA HA
HAHAHA!

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WILL MAKE YOU
GASP
IN HORROR
AS YOU WATCH
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WITHOUT THE BENEFIT
OF A **SAFETY NET!**

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Coming Soon: "THE KISS OF DEATH!"

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Ward Churchill and the Mad Dogs of the Right

When it comes to left and right, meaning the respective voices of sanity and dementia, we're meant to keep two sets of books.

Start with sanity, in the form of Ward Churchill, a tenured prof at the University of Colorado. Churchill is known nationally as a fiery historian and writer, particularly on Indian matters. Back in 2001, after 9/11, Churchill wrote an essay called "Some People Push Back," making the simple point, in his words, that "if US foreign policy results in widespread death and destruction abroad, we cannot feign innocence when some of that destruction is returned."

That piece was developed into a book: "On the Justice of Roosting Chickens." On the matter of those killed in the 9/11 attacks, Churchill wrote recently: "It is not disputed that the Pentagon was a military target, or that a CIA office was situated in the World Trade Center. Following the logic by which US Defense Department spokespersons have consistently sought to justify target selection in places like Baghdad 1991, this placement of an element of the American 'command and control infrastructure' in an ostensibly civilian facility converted the Trade Center itself into a 'legitimate' target."

At this point Churchill could have spe-

cifically mentioned the infamous bombing of the Amariya civilian shelter in Baghdad in January 1991, with 400 deaths, almost all women and children, all subsequently identified and named by the Iraqis. To this day the US government says it was an OK target.

Churchill concludes: "If the US public is prepared to accept these 'standards' when they are routinely applied to other people, they should be not be surprised when the same standards are applied to them. It should be emphasized that I applied the 'little Eichmanns' characterization only to those [World Trade Center workers] described as 'technicians.' Thus, it was obviously not directed to the children, janitors, food service workers, firemen and random passersby killed in the 9-1-1 attack. According to Pentagon logic, [they] were simply part of the collateral damage. Ugly? Yes. Hurtful? Yes. And that's my point. It's no less ugly, painful or dehumanizing a description when applied to Iraqis, Palestinians, or anyone else." I'm glad he puts that gloss in about the targets of his characterization, thus clarifying what did read like a blanket stigmatization of the WTC inhabitants in his original paper.

A storm has burst over Churchill's head, with protests by Governor Pataki and others at his scheduled participation on a panel

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Valentine's Day Sweatshops

Did you buy your sweetie roses for Valentine's Day? Pause for a moment to consider where they come from, and at what cost—and what can be done to give a bit more joy not just to the flowers' recipients, but their producers.

Cut flowers are a highly globalized industry. The majority of cut flowers sold in the United States are Imported, especially from Colombia and Ecuador. Kenya and Tanzania are the key overseas supplier for Europe. Here's how the industry looks from the multinational corporate perspective: "In just a 24-hour period, each stem is cut, packed and loaded onto a temperature controlled UPS aircraft heading to Miami. There, they clear customs and are distributed to florists and consumers across the country. Eighty-seven percent of all cut flower imports arrive in Miami." UPS reports that it imported more than 14.8 million stems of cut flowers into the United States last year from South American countries such as Colombia and Ecuador.

But on the ground in Colombia and Ecuador, things don't look so smoothly efficient and trouble-free.

Olga Tutillo is secretary general of Rosas del Ecuador, a flower workers union in Ecuador. She has worked at flower plantations for 22 years. She is 38 years old and has five children.

Tutillo explains how hard the work is for Ecuador's roughly 100,000 flower workers, about 70 percent of whom are women—the faces behind Cupid. The International Labor Organization estimates about 20 percent of the workforce consists of children.

The workers generally earn the national minimum wage, \$145 per month. They work especially long hours in advance of Valentine's Day and other flower-giving holidays in the United States. They experience major occupational risks. Back pain is common among those

FOCUS ON THE CORPORATION

who must stand or lean all day. Repetitive motion injuries are common. Rose pickers are frequently cut by thorns.

"There are also problems caused by pesticide fumigation," she explains. "Fumigation happens every day, either to prevent the plants from getting different diseases or to deal with it when they do get those diseases. Some of these chemicals are highly toxic."

Flower workers who try to organize to improve their working conditions face severe repression.

"It is extremely difficult to unionize in Ecuador," says Tutillo. "The companies are organized among themselves and they have a list on the Internet of the people who have tried to unionize or have unionized. If someone tries to create a union, the company threatens to fire them and says they won't be able to find another job. These are the famous blacklists."

Thanks to firings, blacklisting and other tactics—like increasing use of contract workers instead of full-timed employees—the unionization rate in Ecuador is depressingly low. Among 300 flower companies in Ecuador, reports Tutillo, "only four have unions—the other attempts to unionize have been repressed."

The story is much the same in Colombia, says Ricardo Zamudio, president of Cactus, a Colombian organization that conducts research on issues related to the flower industry.

Workers are trying to organize despite the repression they face. In Colombia, a recent important development has been independent unionization at one flower company owned by Dole, which altogether controls 20 percent of Colombia's flower exports. The International Labor Rights Fund (ILRF) is running a letter-writing campaign to urge Dole Fresh Flowers and the Colombian-based firm Splendor Flowers to respect workers' right to

unionize (www.laborrights.org).

Unfortunately, as long as the repression remains intense, consumers have much more freedom to demand flower justice than do the flower workers.

In Europe, a flower certification program has taken hold that tells consumers whether flowers were grown on farms or plantations that respect minimal environmental and labor conditions. According to the International Labor Organization, a substantial portion of flowers grown in Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe receive certification under the Flower Label Program. The flower certification program is no panacea, but it does help modestly improve environmental and working conditions, and it gives workers more space to organize.

The program has had much less impact in South America, in considerable part because the Flower Label Program hasn't taken hold in the United States, where most Colombian and Ecuadorian flowers are shipped.

Just like with sweatshops, consumer pressure can make a significant difference in the lives of the flower workers. But the opportunity is in some ways greater, because of the concentration among both flower producers and sellers. ILRF is leading the way, trying to galvanize consumer pressure to force Dole and large cut flower sellers—Albertson's, Safeway, Costco and Wal-Mart, among others—to pressure flower suppliers to respect workers' rights to organize, protect employees' health and safety, and pay overtime wages.

So go ahead and give that rose for Valentine's Day. But be careful of the thorns—and to avoid sticking it to the flower workers, support the ILRF campaign.

(c) Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman
Russell Mokhiber is editor of the Washington, D.C.-based *Corporate Crime Reporter*, www.corporatecrimereporter.com. Robert Weissman is editor of the Washington, D.C.-based *Multinational Monitor*, www.multinationalmonitor.org. Mokhiber and Weissman are co-authors of *On the Rampage: Corporate Predators and the Destruction of Democracy* (Monroe, Maine: Common Courage Press).

at Hamilton College called "Limits of Dissent." In Colorado he's resigned his chairmanship of the department of ethnic studies, and politicians, fired up by the mad dogs on the Wall Street Journal editorial page and by Lord O'Reilly of the Loofoah on Fox, are howling for his eviction from his job.

Why should Churchill apologize for anything? Is it a crime to say that chickens can come home to roost and that the way to protect American lives from terrorism is to respect international law? I don't think he should have resigned as department chair. Let them drag him out by main force.

So much for the voice of sanity. Now for the dementia of the right. The New Republic's Tom Frank (not the Frank, please note, who just wrote a book about Kansas) describes in *TNR* how he recently sat in on an antiwar panel in Washington.

Frank listened to Stan Goff, a former Delta Force soldier and current organizer for Military Families Speak Out, whose speech duly moved Frank to write that "what I needed was a Republican like Arnold [Schwarzenegger] who would walk up to [Goff] and punch him in the face."

Then upon Frank's outraged ears fell the views of International Socialist Review editorial board member Sherry Wolf, who asserted that Iraqis had a "right" to rebel

against occupation, prompting *TNR*'s man to confide to his readers that "these weren't harmless lefties. I didn't want Nancy Pelosi talking sense to them; I wanted John Ashcroft to come busting through the wall with a submachine gun to round everyone up for an immediate trip to Gitmo, with Charles Graner on hand for interrogation."

After Wolf quoted Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy's defense of the right to resist, Frank confided to *The New Republic*'s readers, "Maybe sometimes you just want to be on the side of whoever is more likely to take a bunker buster to Arundhati Roy."

Now suppose Churchill had talked about Schwarzenegger's war on the poor in California and called on someone to punch the dog in the face, or have a jovial Graner force Pataki to masturbate whatever remains of Schwarzenegger's steroid-shriveled genitals, or have Ann Coulter rub her knickers in his face, or get blown up by a bomb? He'd be out of his job in a minute.

Right-wing mad dogs are licensed to write anything, and in our Coulter-culture they do, just so they can burnish their profiles and get invited on Fox talk shows. Why else would Tony Blankley call on the Washington Times editorial page for Seymour

Hersh to be imprisoned or shot for treason? But it's a PR game only right-wingers are allowed to play.

After savaging Churchill, the mad dogs of the right are now turning their sights on Shahid Alam, a tenured professor of economics at Northeastern University in Boston. Alam, author of the excellent "Poverty From the Wealth of Nations," wrote a column for the CounterPunch website in December in which he argued that the 9/11 attacks were an Islamist insurgency, the attackers believing that they are fighting—as the American revolutionaries did in the 1770s—for their freedom and dignity against foreign occupation/control of their lands. Second, he argued that these attacks were the result of the political failure of Muslims to resist their tyrannies locally.

It was a mistake, Alam said, to attack the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. Now he has been labeled "an un-American" professor by O'Reilly and Daniel Pipes, and there's an Internet campaign to have him stripped of his faculty position. So write to all the appropriate names, defending Churchill and Alam; and if you feel like a pleasant outing to execute Frank and The New Republic, there'll be a demonstration sponsored by the DC Anti-War Network, the DC chapter of the ISO and others at 5 PM on

Friday, February 11, outside *TNR*'s DC editorial offices at 1331 H Street.

Afterword: Latest word from Colorado since this column went to press in the print edition of *The Nation*, is that the university's Inquisition team has taken time out, for a month, so that they can read everything Ward Churchill has ever written.

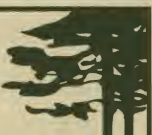
A month? That's like saying you need only a year to read the works of Alexander Dumas, which would mean reading a couple of novels a day. This job will take those UC officials a lot longer than that. Ward is a very prolific guy and he's been at it for many years. And, yes, this is the same University of Colorado whose officials decided last year to take no firm disciplinary action after Katie Hinda and two other women charged they had been raped or assaulted by members of the UC football team, also that Coach Gary Barnett's staff had staged porno movie showings for potential team recruits, also promising them easy sex if they signed on.

Once again, two sets of books. For rapists and procurers a wink and a nod; for political commentary, a full press persecution and threats of termination. Hinda told Katie Couric a few days ago that her lawyers are actively pursuing legal sanctions. —Alexander Cockburn

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Duck and Cover Redux

In the fall of 2004, anti-nuclear activists won what appeared to be a stunning victory when the Republican-controlled Congress eliminated funding for a new generation of nuclear weapons, the so-called bunker buster nukes. Shortly after the final vote, Rep. Ed Markey called it the "biggest victory that arms control advocates in Congress have had since 1992."

In the omnibus appropriations bill passed by Congress on December 1, all funding was zeroed-out for two favored projects of the wizards of Armageddon: the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, or nuclear "bunker buster," and for the Advanced Concepts Initiative, which provided the breeding grounds for research into so-called micro nukes.

Moreover, Congress also slashed funding for grooming the Nevada Test Site for future nuclear blasts from \$30 million to \$22.5 million. The nuclear bomb lobby has long been lobbying for a new "pit" production facility—pits are the plutonium cores of nuclear bombs that ignite the atomic chain reaction resulting in thermonuclear explosions. The Bush administration asked Congress for \$30 million to develop a new production facility, but Congress reduced the total outlay to \$7 million and included language prohibiting the Department of Energy from naming a site for the facility.

All in all, these amounted to a series of devastating defeats for the nuclear-bomb making industry and its supporters in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill. But such victories tend to have a very brief half-life. And don't look now, but the nuclear weapons clique has launched a covert counterattack using a small provision in the very same funding bill as a kind of radioactive loophole for a new generation of nuclear weapons. Buried in the mammoth omnibus appropriations bill was an obscure single item for something called the Reliable Replacement Warhead program. With an initial seeding of \$50 million, this innocuous-sounding project will likely become the drawing board for the kind of redesigned nuclear warheads that Congress tried to eliminate.

The project will fund the work of 100 nuclear weapons designers at three bomb-making laboratories: Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos and Sandia. Proponents expect the project to start slowly, then gather budgetary momentum within the next five years. By 2015, they expect to unveil their new warhead design and inaugurate a new series of underground nuclear tests.

And guess what? Instead of the small, mini-nuke feared by anti-nuke activists, these weapons designers are moving in the opposite direction. These new nukes are likely to be bigger, bulkier and many times more potent than the current generation of weapons.

NATURE & POLITICS

Once the project gets rolling, it'll be nearly impossible to turn off the flow of money. For one thing, the beneficiaries of these doomsday funds will soon extend beyond the weapons labs and to defense contractors, the most omnipotent lobby on the Hill. That's because the new heavier warheads will need a new generation of rockets to launch them on their path of annihilation. Here's where Lockheed and Boeing enter the picture.

All of this was sold to Congress on the grounds of reliability. The nuclear priesthood at the labs and in the Pentagon complained to Congress that the current nuclear arsenal is becoming decrepit. Most of the 10,000 nuclear warheads in the US arsenal were designed to last about 15 years. The average age of a warhead is now 20 years. And some are 30 years old and older. The bombmakers grieve that the arsenal is getting so old that the reliability of the weapons to generate city-destroying thermonuclear blasts is now in doubt. In addition, the nuclear cohort chafes that the global test ban treaty, which outlaws underground detonations of nuclear weapons, makes it impossible for them to assess what they snidely refer to as the "health" of the US stockpile—as if regular nuclear blasts in the Nevada desert were only a kind of treadmill to evaluate the vitality of geriatric warheads.

The only alternative, lament the weapons designers, is to redesign a new generation of warheads that are bigger and easier to certify as being reliable, that are ready to incinerate millions at the touch of a button. Of course, a new generation of nukes will inevitably bring the US into stark conflict with the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, long the bane of the weapons-designers and the neo-cons in the Bush administration. And once nuclear testing begins, a new arms race could follow, with Pakistan, India, China, North Korea, Israel, Russia and Iran all in the mix.

And what about those mini-nukes? Don't count them out just yet.

In January, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld fired off a memo to the Department of Energy requesting that the agency quickly review funding for a study on the design of bunker buster bombs.

"I think we should request funds in FY06 and FY07 to complete the study," Rumsfeld wrote. "Our staffs have spoken about funding the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP) study to support its completion by April 2007. You can count on my support for your efforts to revitalize the nuclear weapons infrastructure and to complete the RNEP study."

The Bush budget for the Department of Energy

contains \$10.3 million for further work on the feasibility study, which is being conducted by weapons designers at Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore. So much for the administration's new devotion to fiscal austerity.

Rummy's move was a brazen slap in the face to Republican congressman David Hobson (Ore.). Hobson chairs the House Appropriations subcommittee on water and energy and played the key role in eliminating funding for the bunker-buster bomb after reviewing a report from the National Nuclear Security Administration (which runs the nuclear program within the Energy Department) that estimated the department would spend almost \$500 million to produce the weapon in the budgets for fiscal years 2005 to 2009.

"Neither the Department of Defense nor the Department of Energy has ever articulated to me a specific military requirement for a nuclear earth penetrator," Hobson said in a recent speech to the Arms Control Association. "At the Pentagon's urging, I even spent an entire day at Offutt Air Force Base getting briefed by STRATCOM. But I was never told of any specific military mission requiring the nuclear bunker buster. The Department of Energy's nuclear weapons complex has so many fundamental management problems that have not received sufficient federal oversight that it troubles me deeply that Congressional opposition to RNEP generates so much attention. The development of new weapons for ill-defined future requirements is not what the Nation needs at this time. What is needed, and what is absent to date, is leadership and fresh thinking for the 21st Century regarding nuclear security and the future of the US stockpile."

Search across the arid vistas of the Clinton years and you're unlikely to find a more caustic indictment of the archaic and demented nuclear ambitions of the Pentagon and the nuclear labs. Indeed, the mini-nuke program was initiated and nourished by Clinton and Gore. But David Hobson is a lonely voice against an industry that has never really suffered a long-term defeat. In the absence of a real anti-nuke movement in this country, his courageous legislative victories won't amount to much.

Of course, if the demise of the Soviet Union didn't provide a rationale for the dismantling of the US nuclear arsenal, then the budgetary meddling of a fiscally conservative congressman is unlikely to provide much of an impediment. Committee chairs come and go, but the nuclear program endures forever.

So instead of witnessing the welcome abortion of a new class of nuclear warheads, the Pentagon and nuclear labs have incubated two new monsters: mini-nukes and fat nukes. Pick your poison.

Now count the months before the Bush administration invokes the "reliability" ruse as an excuse to breach the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The desert of Nevada will be ground zero, once again.

—Jeffrey St. Clair. This essay is excerpted from his forthcoming book "Grand Theft Pentagon," to be published in July by Common Courage Press."

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THIS COULD BE YOUR AD

But it's not. And that's a shame, cuz then people would know how cool you are for supporting ETSI! And you would get my message to all those people. Well, hey, there's always next issue. 206-632-2162.



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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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MAY 1, 2003: VICTORY SEEMS IMMINENT AFTER PRESIDENT BUSH DECLARED MAJOR COMBAT OPERATIONS OVER. OKAY, WE'VE REALLY TURNED THE CORNER THIS TIME!



DECEMBER 13, 2003: VICTORY SEEMS IMMINENT AFTER SAOUDIS HADDED OUT OF A HOLE IN THE GROUND. THIS IS THE MOMENT OF ALL CORNER- AND WE ARE TURNING IT!



JUNE 28, 2004: VICTORY SEEMS IMMINENT AFTER THE U.S. HANDS DOWN A VERDICT. IF THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE TURNING OF A CORNER, I SIMPLY DON'T KNOW WHAT DOES!



JANUARY 29, 2005: VICTORY SEEMS IMMINENT AFTER ELECTIONS WERE HELD WITHOUT MAJOR DISRUPTION. A LIST OF CORNERS WE HAVE NOT TURNED YET SURELY NOT INCLUDE THIS ONE!



MAY 5, 2012: VICTORY SEEMS IMMINENT AFTER YET ANOTHER CORNER HAS BEEN TURNED. AND NOW THAT CORNER, WE'VE DEFINITELY TURNED THE CORNER!



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Backtalk

ETSI encourages comments, feedback, tips, corrections, and info! Please keep them as concise as possible so we can print as many different voices as possible: ETSI, P.O. Box 85541, Seattle, WA 98145, or email editorial@eatthestate.org.

Everyone's a Critic

Movie review: Monsters, Inc.
A society whose source of energy is based on the screams of children. Only when one of the energy industry workers is forced to face the victims of his way of life does he work to bring down the cruel and conscience-blind industry structure. Good triumphs, evil is punished.
A society whose source of energy is based on the death and misery of men, women and children. Even when the energy industry workers meet or speak to the victims of their way of life, they refuse to see them as human equals and blindly persevere in plowing through anything or anybody to get their hands on sources of energy. Anything to support Their Way Of Life, with no concern for the agony this causes others. Evil goes on and on and on.
Which is the movie? Which is US?

Monsters, Inc., indeed.
Donna Barr, Clallam Bay, WA

An Air America Fan

ETSI,
Progressives have a gift and we could lose it if we don't take care of it. The gift is Air America. The righties have used right wing wacko radio for years to distort the truth into lies and lies to truth. Now the

left has a golden opportunity to expose the righties for the liars that they are.

The problem is too few people know about Air America. Air America does not have the budget to advertise so we need to help them get the word out. The left now has a network that is stronger then ever before and we can tap into this power by getting the word out for Air America. We need to get links on the progressives' web sites.

Imagine waking up one morning and turning on the radio and instead of hearing Air America, you hear Rush say "What did I tell you? There just isn't an audience for left wing radio. Don't turn that dial you lefties, you're not on the wrong station; this station belongs to us now!" We need to get progressive people involved in the letting other people know about Air America. Here are just a few ideas. We can ask people to make home made signs and then to display them on our cars or in our home windows or yards. How about asking progressives to design a bumper sticker and then mass produce the best one. How about starting a chain letter like e-mail that is passed from person to person via e-mail? Perhaps, a group of people might decide to stand on a freeway overpass during rush hour and hold a sign that reads something like "Listen to Air America on 1090." Maybe you will consider sending out an e-mail to everyone on your mailing list. Some people might decide to poster their town with posters that announce Air America's arrival and the radio frequency.

Please do whatever you can do to help spread the word that Air America can be heard on the radio or on the web. In the greater Seattle area Air America can be heard on 1090 AM. Or listen on line at www.airamericaonline.com.

Bob Kendall

Activist Directory

Lists groups doing good work in the Seattle area. Listing fee: \$75 per six months; \$40 if annual budget is less than \$100,000. Up to 30 word description, plus contact info.

Capitol Hill Neighbors for Peace and Justice
www.snowcoalition.org
Part of Sound Nonviolent Opponents of War, we bring together residents of Capitol Hill and Montlake to work for peace and justice. Educational forums, reading groups, tabling, monthly meetings, etc.

Citizens for Overt Action
206-547-7735; frank@csn.org
Seattle group exposing covert action and government secrecy. Watch "Pirate TV," public access 297.7-8.9 pm Mondays through May 2. Meets 1st pm first Tuesday of most months at 5011 Ave. on the Ave. on NE 50th—call to confirm.

East Timor Action Network (ETAN/Seattle)
2021 NE 75th St., Seattle WA 98115
206-547-7735; www.etan-website.org
ETAN works for East Timorese human rights and justice. Our goals are increasing public awareness of East Timorese issues and working to positively influence US policy. Meeting info: 547-7735.

Eastside Fellowship of Reconciliation (EFOR)
425-805-1962; www.eastsidefor.org
We are an interfaith organization committed to active nonviolence. We educate, train, build coalitions, and engage in nonviolent actions. Join us to help to save the children.

Emma Goldman Finishing School
1309 13th Ave. S., Seattle WA 98144
206-324-6822; info@egfs.org
www.egfs.org
Intentional community and member, Federation of Egalitarian Communities. Join us for a monthly Social Justice Housing Salon and Dinner, 6 pm first Sunday of each month—call to confirm.

Freedom Socialist Party
5018 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98148
206-722-7435; FSParty@mindspring.com
www.socialist.org
Revolutionary, anti-capitalist and feminist. We are multi-racial, queer lib agitators for justice and workers rights. SCC Freedom Socialist students meet weekly during the school year. Bookstore hours: Mon-Fri. 10am-8:30pm.

Green Party of Seattle
PO Box 95515, Seattle, WA 98145
206-354-3777; info@seattlegreen.org
www.seattlegreen.org
A progressive alternative to the two corporate parties; rooted in ecology, social justice, nonviolence, and grassroots democracy. Part of a worldwide movement. We work both on electoral campaigns and issues.

Interfaith Network of Concern for the People of Iraq
5019 Keystone Pl. N., Seattle, WA 98103
206-632-6021; www.concernforiraq.org
At INOC we join together to act out of the teachings of our faith traditions to end the war against the people of Iraq in a nonviolent manner. [9/14]

Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia (NACC)
4554 14th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105
206-547-0954; nacc@actnet.com
www.nacc.org

Seattle-based nonviolent direct action group working on peace and social justice issues and operates the country's largest escrow fund of resisted war taxes, granting part of the interest each year to other radical activist groups.

Radical Women
5018 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98148
206-722-6057; RWSeattle@mindspring.com
A feisty bunch of socialist feminists of all colors, sexualities, & ages. Focuses on activism, education, & developing women's leadership in the fight for fundamental social changes. Regular meetings & study groups.

Socialist Alternative
PO Box 45343, Seattle, WA 98145
206-326-7864; www.SocialistAlternative.org
Seattle@SocialistAlternative.org
Educating and organizing oppressed people to effectively fight social injustice and corporate exploitation of workers and the environment to replace capitalism with a truly democratic, equal society.

Western Washington Veterans for Peace
PO Box 50106, Bellevue, WA 98015
425-453-4439; www.wvfp.org; see wvfp@vfp.org
Works to increase public awareness of the costs of war, restrain our government from intervening in other nations, end the arms race and eliminate nuclear weapons, seek justice for veterans and victims of war, and abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

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...tells the story of the bravest people in America. —Howard Zinn [re: "Prophets Without Honor"]
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EAT! Activist Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7 PM. Monthly Business/Editorial Meeting for Independent Print and Electronic Weekly Eat The State. Come, meet, volunteer. How do we do it every other week? People like you! Come be one of them! University Baptist Church, NE 47th and 12th Ave. NE, 3rd floor (the NACCS/SDC offices). Info: eattheestate.org.

7-9 PM. Neighbor Power: Building Community the Seattle Way. In response to Robert Putnam's Bowling Alone, Jim Diers makes the case in his newly released book that citizens are finding new ways of getting engaged in their communities and with their government. Antioch University, 2326 6th Ave. Info: Debra Alderman at 206-468-4906 or www.antiochia.edu.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Noon to 2 PM. Tsunami, its effects, and the Political and Economic Issues. Church Council of Greater Seattle presents noted writer and photographer Rev. Paul Jeffrey speaking on his work in areas hit by the recent tsunami. Grace United Methodist Church, 722 30th Avenue S. Info: Phyllis Reynolds at 206-525-1213 or info@thechurchcouncil.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Through February 20. A Festival of Workers' Culture, Seattle Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave. This festival of labor music, art, poetry and theater will highlight the 100th anniversary of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Info: www3.telus.net/roboggibb/PNLHAFWOC_registration.pdf.

7 PM. Friday night at the Meaningful Movies: Bush's Brain. Film follows the political career of George W. Bush's key advisor and electoral strategist Karl Rove, a.k.a. "Bush's Brain," the man who wrapped Bush in "compassionate conservatism." Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. N. Info: groups.msn.com/wallingtonforneighors.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

10-1:30 AM. Forum on Social Security. President Bush is proposing sweeping changes to Social Security. Rep. Jim McDermott wants to hear the ideas, concerns and views of the people of the 7th District regarding Social Security. Biodegradable Hall, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 10th Avenue E.

1-5:30 PM. ACLU of Washington Annual Membership Meeting. Panel discussion with writers and scholars: Rick Steves, Greg Parrish, and Suzanne Holland. Workshops 3-5 PM. Reception 4:30-5:30 PM. University of Washington's Kane Hall. RSVP: 206-624-2184, or at secure.acu.wa.org/events/05annmt/registration.asp.

7 PM. Dahr Jamali, Independent, Unembedded Journalist in Iraq. Dahr Jamali's reports have been published with The Nation, The Sunday Herald, and Islam Online. On the radio, Dahr reports for the BBC and Democracy Now. Come hear his stories and see his photos. Kirkland Congregational Church, 105 5th Avenue, Kirkland. Info: www.epj.net or www.dahrjamali.org.

7 PM. From Basra To Seattle: Bringing Home the Iraq War and Occupation. The public is invited to an evening with Dr. Jahan Hassan, a pediatrician from Basra, Iraq, who will talk about the conditions in her country today and, more specifically, about

the health effects of depleted uranium on children. Univ. of Wash. Health Sciences Hogness Auditorium. Info: Amy Hagopian at 206-685-3676 or hagopian@u.washington.edu.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:30 PM. Dahr Jamali, Independent, Unembedded Journalist in Iraq. See 7 PM, 2/19/05 above. UW Kane Hall, Room 120. Info: Rev. Richard Gamble at 206-632-6021 or www.dahrjamali.org.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Thru 2:25. Take Action against DR-CAFTA. Momentum has been building in the campaign to stop the US-Dominican Republic Central America free trade agreement (DR-CAFTA). Take the opportunity to meet with your representative, do educational outreach, and get the CAFTA debate into your local news. Info: www.stopcafta.org.

7 PM. The 9/11 Omission Report: What the Commission Didn't Answer. A talk by John Judge, co-founder of 9/11 CitizensWatch, www.citizenswatch.org, an oversight group critical of the 9/11 Commission, supporting victims' families and working for transparency and a thorough investigation into the events and causes of 9/11. Trinity United Methodist Church, NW 65th & 23rd NW. Info: talkingstictv@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7 PM. Reflections on a Life in Sports and the Law, with Justice Alan Page, Minnesota Supreme Court and formerly with Minnesota Vikings. At the very best, athletic achievement might open a door that discrimination once held shut. Justice Alan Page reflects on his life as an athlete, his current experiences, and his vision for the future. Kane Hall 120, University of Washington, Seattle. Info: aes@u.washington.edu or 206-543-5401.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

9:30-11:30 AM. Deep Cuts in Essential Entitlement Programs. President Bush and his allies in Congress plan to enact deep cuts in essential entitlement programs. The next 8 weeks will be crucial. We need to present a unified message to our Congressional members that these proposals would be devastating to Washington State. Fremont Public Association, Community Resource Center, 1st Floor Conference Room, 1501 N 45th. Info: Aiko Schaefer at 206-694-6794, or Linda Stone at linda@childrensalliance.org.

6-7:30 PM. Community Alliance for Global Justice General Meeting. Join us for a light dinner, campaign updates, and get involved in our campaign to defeat the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and promote fair trade. 606 Maynard Ave. S. Info: cag@seattleglobaljustice.org or 206-405-4600.

7 PM. First public meeting on the UW's proposed Blotter Lab Complex ("Regional Biocontainment Laboratory") that would be working with dangerous pathogens in a densely populated area. At the Boston University blotter lab accidents occurred that weren't reported for months, and the UW's attempts to keep this project secret promise more of the same. All are encouraged to come and speak out against this project. UW Kane Hall, Room 220.

7 PM. From Basra To Seattle: Bringing Home the Iraq War and Occupation. The public is invited to an evening with Dr. Jahan Hassan, a pediatrician from Basra, Iraq, who will talk about the conditions in her country today and, more specifically, about the health effects of depleted uranium on children. Seattle University, Wyckoff Auditorium.

7 PM. Cuban Film Festival: Filmmaker Bernie Dwyer screening The Cuban Five. \$10 donation to support our advocacy work for the right to travel to Cuba. 911 Media Arts Center, 402 9th Avenue N. Info: 206-682-6552 or www.womenandcuba.org.

7:15 PM. The Green Party of Seattle General Membership Meeting. Public is welcome. University Heights Center, NE 50th & University Way NE, Room 201. Info: 206-524-3377 or info@seattlegreens.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7 PM. Hope is a Four Letter Word. Joanna Kadl will be doing a reading and discussion. She is the author of "Thinking Class: Sketches of a Cultural Worker" and she edited and contributed to "Food for our Grandmothers: Writings by Arab-American and Arab-Canadian Feminists." Bush Hotel, 409 Maynard Ave. S. Info: 206-324-8166 or www.joannakadl.org.

7:30 PM. The Murder of Fred Hampton: A Documentary On The Black Panthers and The FBI's Assassination of A Radical Civil Rights Leader. An eye-opening, rare documentary about the heroic struggle of Fred Hampton and the Black Panthers to liberate black people. A benefit for Socialist Alternative. UW Smith Hall, Room 120. Info: www.SocialistAlternative.org or 206-526-7864.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

4 PM. Special Group Reading by Seattle's African American Writers Alliance. The Alliance offers writers groups for work with each other and stages readings at venues around the city. Elliott Bay Book Company, 1st S & S Main St. Info: 206-722-0964.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

9:30-10:30 AM. Saving Puget Sound, with Kathy Fletcher. Puget Sound's health continues to decline. Mystery oil spills, a deadzone in Hood Canal, and rural revolt over land use regulations are harsh reminders of the challenges ahead. What's going on right now in the legislature to address these issues? Kathy Fletcher is founder and executive director of People for Puget Sound. University Unitarian Church, 6556 35th Ave. NE. Info: Jerome Chapman at 206-522-2984.

7:30 PM. Thunder Music Presents David Rove and Robb Johnson in Concert. \$10-\$15 suggested donation for Seattle Thunder Reclaim Democracy. Trinity United Methodist Church, 6512 23rd Ave NW. Info: www.davidroves.com.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

6-7:55 PM. Other More Democratic Voting Systems Don't Require Choosing the Lesser of 2 Evils. Meeting of Washington Citizens for Proportional Representation. University Branch of the Seattle Public Library, NE 50th & Roosevelt Way. Info: Janet Anderson at www.fairvote.net/washington or 206-385-2460.

For an excellent and much longer compilation of upcoming and ongoing progressive events in Seattle, check out Jean Buskin's Peace Calendar: www.scn.org/activism/calendar/ or e-mail her at bb369@scn.org. Also, see www.seattleactivism.org.



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Next meeting: 7:15 pm, Wed. Feb. 23
Rm. 110, University Heights, 50th & University Way NE
Speaker on solar legislation in Washington state

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